

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-59 AGR-20 SWF-02 EB-11 COME-00

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

/127 W

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R 142155Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2745

UNCLAS BOGOTA 4241

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR MRN 4241 VICE 4227)

E O 11652 NA

TAGS EAGR

SUBJ: WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION: LDC PRODUCTION PROBLEMS

REF STATE 61531 26877

COLOMBIA IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE ABOUT 500,000 METRIC TONS OF NITROGEN (NPK) FERTILIZERS IN 74. THIS QUANTITY SHOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. INSTALLED CAPACITY IS ABOUT 700,000 MT. BULK OF PRODUCTION IS BY TWO FIRMS, ABONOS DE COLOMBIA WITH 250,000 MT CAPACITY OPERATING AT AL OST 100 PERCENT AND MONOMEROS COLOMBO-VENEZOLONOS WITH 270,000 MT CAPACITY OPERATING AT ABOUT 65 PERCENT. LOW UTILIZATION OF LATTER PLANT RESULTS FROM RECENT START UP AND PRODUCTION SCHEDULED TO REACH 95 PERCENT CAPACITY BY LATE 74. ABOVE TWO FIRMS IMPORT ALMOST ALL RAW MATERIALS AND THUS FAR HAVE EXPERIENCED NO UNDUE PROBLEMS IN SUPPLY ALTHOUGH OPERATION IS OCCASIONALLY AFFECTED BY SHIPPING DIFFICULTIES. MONOMEROS EXPECTS TO ENCOUNTER SOME SHORT SUPPLY PROBLEM FOR AMMONIA AND PHOSPHORIC ACID AS IT EXPANDS PRODUCTION. IN VIEW OF APPARENTLY EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF FERTILIZER PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND ORIENTATION TO DOMESTIC DEMAND EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT APPROACH TO GOC IS NEEDED AT PRESENT TIME. WE WILL HOWEVER, CONTINUE OBSERVATION OF INDUSTRY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT

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TO MONOMEROS PROGRESS AND POSSIBLE SHORT SUPPLY QUESTIONS,

IN CASE FUTURE SITUATION SHOULD INDICATE NEED FOR CONSULTATION.

VAKY

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NNN

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